



A
L E T T E R

FROM

J. K E Y S E R,
SURGEON and CHYMIST, of PARIS,

TO

Mr. JONATHAN WATHEN,
SURGEON, of LONDON.



[Price Sixpence.]

THE T. E. B.

И. О. Я. П.

J. K. E. Y. S. E. R.

ROBERTSON and CHYMIST, of PARIS.

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A
L E T T E R
F R O M

J. K E Y S E R,
SURGEON and CHYMIST, of PARIS,

T O
Mr. JONATHAN WATHEN,
SURGEON, of LONDON.



In answer to his Pamphlet, intituled,
Practical Observations on the Venereal Disease, &c.

I N
Which he has introduced and espoused certain Animadversions of an anonymous Writer on the celebrated Medicine called KEYSER'S PILLS.

To which is added,
A LETTER from the Learned Professor L E C A T, of Rouen, with an Account of a remarkable Cure that Gentleman performed with this Medicine.

Hic non agitur de verbis, sed de rebus.

L O N D O N :

Printed for W. NICOLL, at the Paper-Mill, in
St. Paul's Church-Yard. 1765.

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J. K. E. Y. S. E. R.

FROM

SURGEON and CHEMIST, of PARIS

TO

Mr. JONATHAN WATKINS,
SURGEON, of LONDON.

In answer to his Enquiry, dated,

Practical Observations on the Venereal Disease, &c.

IN

Which he has introduced and opposed certain Anti-
venereal Agents of an ancient and modern kind, &c.
Printed by J. K. E. Y. S. E. R.

To which is added,

A Letter from the Learned Professor J. K. E. Y. S. E. R., of
Rome, on the subject of a Venereal Disease, &c.
Printed by J. K. E. Y. S. E. R.

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L O N D O N

Printed by J. K. E. Y. S. E. R.

A

L E T T E R, &c.

S I R,

MY avocations as a surgeon admitting me very little leisure to read almost any of the numerous productions with which the presses are daily teeming, it is no wonder that an anonymous pamphlet, intitled, *Parallele des differentes Methodes de traiter la Maladie Venerienne*, escaped my notice, although on a subject in which I have professedly engaged myself; and this hide-and-seek author would in all probability have long triumphed unanswered in the attack he has made upon a medicine which, from its utility, has acquired the sanction and recommendation of some of the most respectable professors of the noble and beneficial sciences of physic and surgery, had I not been informed by my correspondent in London, that Mr. Wathen, a gentleman of some note in his profession

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of

of surgeon, had openly adopted the sentiments of this anonymous writer, and, unprovoked by me, who have not the honour of knowing him but by name, fallen most cruelly upon my medicine, and declared it wholly unfit for answering any of the purposes in the Venereal Disease, which are set forth in what he is pleased to call the plausible Narrative so often published.

A little candour, Mr. Wathen, nay I will take upon me to say, a little recollection only, would have sufficed to spare us both some trouble; you, that of hearing truths that cannot be agreeable to you; and me, that of being obliged, in defence of an injured reputation, and of the real virtues of that medicine, which has so happily relieved numbers of our fellow creatures in the most deplorable cases, to make those truths public.

It was matter of some surprise to me, on perusing your pamphlet, Sir, which was sent me over by my correspondent, and is intitled, *Practical Observations concerning the Cure of the Venereal Disease by Mercury, &c.* to find that you, who had thought fit to lay aside the lancet, and take up the pen, in order to give the world satisfactory ideas of the properties of medicines, and their *modi agendi* in the human body, should not have judged it more worthy of your time and labour to have given us an account of the operations of some of those many universally received specifics, whose manner of acting has so long puzzled the most eminent physicians to account for,

for, while their effects were so well known and applauded; such, for instance, as the bark in intermitting fevers, in stopping the progress of a splanchnitis, with many others too tedious to enumerate, rather than have confined yourself to the investigating and elucidating the nature of the cure of the venereal disease *by mercury*; a thing which is known by almost every chirurgical Tyro of a twelvemonth's standing, who need not be asked twice to answer with certainty, that mercury has not nor can have any other known manner of operation but by its fluidity and permeability. You doubtless had your reasons for confining yourself to this beaten track, rather than run the hazard of being bewildered in a chaos of suppositious explanations, which, upon a strict review, might not have been held by adepts in medicine as perfectly infallible. But to come more home to the subject which gave rise to these pages:

You are pleased to say, Sir, for you must allow me to look upon you as the assertor, who stand forth the promulgator of the tenets or reflections of an anonymous writer, in the Introduction to your *Observations*, &c. that the writer "clearly demonstrates, that Keyser's pills (notwithstanding "the plausible Narrative so often published) are not "sufficient to cure a confirmed lues. He accounts " (you tell us) for their reputation in France from "the interested patronage of the great, who have "procured their general use in the army and navy;

“ who gave sanction to those surgeons and cases
 “ only, by whom and in which this medicine is
 “ used; that all others, however superior in real
 “ success, are equally discredited and neglected;
 “ nay even rewards it seems are given to those
 “ who make use of Keyser’s pills;” and conclude
 with a quotation in French from the same anonymous
 writer, which in English runs thus: “ A con-
 “ siderable volume might be formed of well-au-
 “ thenticated observations that have been made of
 “ cases in which Mr. Keyser’s medicine has failed
 “ of success.”

This paragraph runs off prettily enough; but I am sorry to say that it wants that foundation so essentially necessary to every superstructure of this kind, namely, TRUTH. This I must take upon myself to prove. In the first place, you say, “ He (the anonymous writer) *demonstrates*
 “ that Keyser’s pills are not sufficient to cure a con-
 “ firmed lues.” By any quotation you have hitherto favoured us with, no such demonstration appears; and I am surprised, that, in the eagerness of your pursuit to hunt down my medicine, you should not have reflected that it was necessary to have given us some extracts from this curious production, containing the arguments against the medicine, with an account of cases in which it has failed of success, or an analysis of the medicine itself, all tending to demonstrate its inefficacy or unsuitness for the purposes for which it is administered.

But

But nothing of all this appears, and the public are obliged to submit to the *ipse dixit* of an anonymous writer, which is very seldom regarded by men of sense; and Mr. Wathen certainly can do himself very little credit, by quoting random passages of such a performance against a medicine, especially as it will be made appear that the writer has acted as invidiously as unjustly on his part.

But you, with this writer, are pleased to account for the reputation of these pills in France, &c. (for it seems you allow them to have acquired some reputation) “from the interested patronage of the great, &c.” Is it possible, Mr. Wathen, is it possible that a gentleman, who, like you, must be supposed to have some acquaintance with the genteel world, can stoop so low as to be the retailer of such illiberal reflections on men of the first rank and character in a learned and polite nation? Does honour, humanity, and truth, reside no where but in your country? Let me ask Mr. Wathen, does he think so meanly of the great personages immediately about a court, and the presence of their sovereign, and who many of them, from their military offices, have the inspection of the health and treatment of those brave fellows who have ventured their lives in the service of their country, that they are to be, by any consideration whatever, biassed to give their sanction to the use of a medicine, which, instead of alleviating the disorders of the wretched sufferers, shall leave them in the same or a worse state than it
first

first found them in? Do you, Sir, hold the great and the eminent in your own profession in so contemptible a light (not to give it a more harsh appellation) as even to suppose, that if yourself was to apply to them, with all the advantages of the most powerful interest, you could bring them to be advocates for, and constant administrators in their own practice of a precarious remedy, and thereby hazard their own justly-acquired reputation, to answer the private and interested ends of an empiric; especially when the ease and health of numbers of their fellow creatures were so nearly concerned in it? Let me then tell you, Sir, that the many persons of the first consideration in physic and surgery, in most of the capital cities in Europe, who have favoured me with very flattering and full certificates, would as much disdain such a conduct, or even the imputation of it, and would reject with the deserved contempt any man ignorant or impudent enough to solicit their countenance in behalf of any method of cure that did not to them carry the conviction of rationality and experience to recommend it? Then let me acquaint you, if haply you know it not, that in the kingdom of France in particular no *nostrum* can be sold without having previously undergone the examination of gentlemen appointed by the faculty of physic. The French government, by the excellency of its police, protects the lives of its people from being destroyed by quack medicines. It is true, great encourage-
ment

ment is given to the profession of arts and sciences. There is a large field open before them, where each may shew his abilities to do good, but not to do any mischief, at the same time that emulation is encouraged, which has for its object the advantage and benefit of mankind. Thus, when a man of genius has made any new discovery in physic, or improvement in any branch whatever of the useful arts or sciences, it is immediately laid before the proper judges whose province it is to take cognizance thereof, and examine with the greatest exactness the merits of the author, whom, if approved, they reward accordingly. This has already happened in my favour, Sir: my medicine, after the strictest scrutiny, and a course of the most accurate and impartial experiments, in various cases, has been deemed by judges, as unbiaſſed as they are discerning, worthy to be recommended to universal practice, and is now actually in full and constant, and permit me to say, successful use in the hospitals and army, for curing the Venereal distemper; and his most Christian Majesty, who is no more susceptible of impositions than other crowned heads, has, in consequence of the united attestations of the most eminent physicians and surgeons of his court and kingdom, been graciously pleased to honour and reward me with a royal pension of 10,000 livres (or about 500l. English sterling) a year. And as a still further mark of his royal favour, and of the esteem in which he holds my medicine, after
having

having purchased the secret of me for a very handsome consideration, he causes the medicine to be given to all his poor soldiers in the several hospitals at his own expence; but at the same time permits me to enjoy the benefit arising from vending the same during my life, or of disposing of the secret (which I have as yet made known only to his most Christian Majesty and the Marshal Duke of Biron) to my own best advantage. These testimonials, in favour of my character, and that of my medicine, are, I confess, too flattering for me to pass over unnoticed. As to the suggestion, or rather confident assertion, of the anonymous writer, that rewards have been given to persons for making use of my pills, it carries with it something so very absurd and repugnant to common sense, or a knowledge of mankind, that it merits not a reply.

With regard to the analysis my medicine underwent by Mess. Piat and Cadet, apothecaries at Paris, which you take notice of in the 13th page of your Introduction; this is a circumstance that rather does honour to the remedy than otherwise. The occasion of this analysis being made, was a book written by an anonymous writer, charging it to be a composition of corrosive sublimate, and consequently injurious in its effects; whereupon the Marshal Duke of Biron, who was and still continues to be the avowed patron of this medicine, from a knowledge of its composition, and a conviction of its utility, in order to convince the public

lic of the injustice of the anonymous writer's charge, ordered this analysis to be made; the result of which was, as your Introduction observes, that my medicines were found to be pure mercury, perfectly divided, by means of a vegetable acid, and by the help of a certain machine, constructed at my request, by the ingenious Mr. Vaucanson. But to what does all this tend, but to prove that it is not of that corrosive and dangerous nature which the anonymous writer would have made the world believe? He himself (who proved to be no less a person than the learned Dr. Astruc) did afterwards candidly acknowledge his error, and retract his assertions.

But pray, Sir, what authority have either you or the anonymous writer, who seems to be your oracle, to assert so boldly, nay even to appeal to your English surgeons, Mess Hawkins and Bromfield *, that, after the most candid trials, they have both of them rejected my pills, as not only insufficient, but very injurious? What the opinion of those gentlemen concerning the solution of sublimat^e, which is so artfully tacked to the mention of my medicine, may be, is no business of mine. But I must tell you, and that, Sir, from undoubted authority, that those gentlemen are so far from regarding my medicines in the dangerous or contemptible light here represented, that at this very time a powder

* See page xiv. of the Introduction.

similar to that of which my pills are composed, is made use of in the hospital they superintend.

Many *endeavour* to prepare mercury after my *supposed* method, by a long and constant trituration, so as to effect a perfect division of its parts. All this labour and pains, which I am sorry to say, will fail them at last, would not surely be worth while, unless they conceived some degree of virtue and efficacy to reside in my preparations, which they would thus imitate*.

But now, Sir, I come to that part of your Introduction, where you attack me in your own person. And here I must beg leave to retort on you your own words, in your 13th observation, where, speaking of mercury's being the only medicine for curing the venereal disease, you say, "It is well known (however disingenuous it may be) that some who have appeared most conspicuous in opposition to it, have notwithstanding had recourse to it in their private practice, and thus discovered their real sentiments." I could wish that no part of Mr. Wathen's conduct, in respect to my remedy had fallen under the censure of this his own very just observation, and that he had not so inconsiderately joined in the attack on the reputation of a brother surgeon, by chiming in with the sentiments of an anonymous author, who as falsely as ignorantly has advanced several things against my

* The analysing of a medicine may shew what is not in it, but cannot always shew its component parts, nor the methods of compounding them.

medicine, which I defy him to prove, or even to make good the least of his assertions. But to proceed :

You say, in the 13th page of your Introduction, " He (the author of the *Parallele*, &c.) asserts with " *me* (observe that *me*, Mr. Wathen!) that this " medicine (of Mr. Keyser's) is more slow, uncer- " tain, and *dangerous*, than any of the common in- " ternal mercurial preparations, to be met with in " every dispensatory or chemical archive; and " produces a multitude of credible witnesses in " proof of his assertion."

To you now, Sir, I appeal against yourself; I appeal to your own words, your own experience, and your own practice, to refute all and every syllable this anonymous author can possibly say against the good effects of my medicine. Some people, from motives of self-interest, will disguise their real thoughts; but to a man of delicate sentiments, acquired by a liberal education, this kind of dissimulation is supposed to appear low and unwarrantable. What then am I to think, Sir, who have now lying before me letters from my correspondent in London, a gentleman of established character, assuring me, that you, Mr. Wathen, have not only made use of Keyser's pills in your private practice for sometime, but have praised them even to a degree of enthusiasm to my correspondent? nay, that you was so very fond of these pills, that you not long since applied to that gentleman to let you subscribe three or five hundred pounds

in order to become a joint purchaser of the secret of that medicine, provided Mr. Keyser would sell it to four or six purchasers, who should become proprietors of it in England; that you have told that person over and over, that they more than answered your most sanguine expectations: you was even pleased to give some instances of their success, particularly in a lady of a nervous and weakly constitution, whom her husband had injured; and that you had been extremely embarrassed in your endeavours to remove her complaints, as you said that all other preparations of mercury, however softened by all the art you could make use of, or guarded by the most cautious administration, proved rather hurtful, and productive of bad consequences, to the patient, than any way contributed to her relief. It is true, indeed, you never let this or any other patient in her way know that they were Keyser's pills you gave them, for reasons very obvious.

And here, Sir, I must beg leave to observe, that you have been a little wanting in that candour and ingenuity which we naturally look for in persons who, by their education or profession, are raised above the prejudices or meannesses of the vulgar. The facts I have mentioned happened about two years since; therefore, had you, in the course of any subsequent trials, found my medicine fall short of the efficacy you was at first inclined to believe it possessed, would it not have been more satisfactory to the public, more agreeable to the character of the
surgeon

surgeon, the gentleman, and the humanist, to have offered a candid and clear refutation of the supposed virtues ascribed to these pills? to have given some few cases, judiciously and impartially selected for the view of the public, where they have failed under your hands of late, and from thence have deduced your reasons for now endeavouring to explode their use, and stigmatizing them with the character of being *a more slow, uncertain, and dangerous medicine*, &c.? for I am afraid the former warm expressions of your's in their favour will be thought by the unprejudiced part of the public to agree very ill with your present assertions.

But be that as it may, I have not leisure to maintain a paper-war with you, and was compelled to appear in print this time, to vindicate my own character as a surgeon in that of the medicine I have invented, and whose use I recommend; and therefore I shall cut short the dispute, and content myself with having thus exhibited the true state of the treatment I have received, leaving to the impartial public to judge between us.

But before I entirely take my leave of you, I shall endeavour, Sir, to shew the great difference between your (newly-adopted) opinion of my medicine, and that of others in the faculty. These are not ordinary evidences which I am about to produce, but gentlemen of reputation in the profession, whose judgments are to be depended upon, and, I doubt not, will do honour to any cause, were they to give a preference either to my medicine, or
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the other mercurial preparations commonly made use of in the cure of venereal disorders. Let the facts give evidence for themselves.

Mr. Guerin, a celebrated surgeon in Paris, whose name is held in deserved esteem by every gentleman of the profession, has, with distinguished candour, given the following faithful narrative of the effects which he has seen produced by this remedy, in the course of his own practice, for the space of three years, in the hospital which was founded by the Marshal Duke of Biron for dispensing it to the French guards.

I. "The remedy (says he) is good, and free from all manner of inconvenience. Already (in the space of two years) 500 soldiers have been successfully cured in the above-mentioned hospital, and I can aver of most grievous disorders, that for the most part had been missed by the best-approved usual methods, and in which mercurial frictions have proved ineffectual.

II. "I have had the management of this remedy myself, and have effected by it cures that astonished me.

III. "I prescribed it constantly, and have not as yet met with any accident to make me doubt, not only of its efficacy, but even of its *superiority* over all the antivenereal remedies hitherto known. I am sensible that no medicine ever has been and continues to be so furiously attacked as this by all the suggestions of jealousy and envy ; but the candid
and

and rational practitioner will by a very few trials be convinced that self-interest has been the cause of all this opposition.

IV. "I find that this remedy demands scarce any preparations, not even baths, except in such cases where you may judge them necessary; no other regimen need be prescribed to the sick, but to avoid being guilty of excess. A patient may be cured by this remedy without any person about him, servant or others, harbouring the least suspicion.

(Signed) GUERIN."

The above is an abstract from a letter wrote by this gentleman to a surgeon of some eminence in London. To this certificate, among many others, of the virtues of my medicine, I shall subjoin two very extraordinary cases, certified by Mess. de la Faye and Morand, men of the most established reputation and character in their profession.

"The first is that of Mr. Du Bois *, principal "servant to Monsieur Le Maitre, Treasurer General of Artillery. His case was as follows: All "the upper part of the coronal-bone † was exosto-

* See a Narrative of the effects of a medicine discovered by Mr. Keyser, for the cure of the Venereal Disease, &c. published in London by James Cowper, M. D. printed for Mr. Nicoll in St. Paul's Church Yard, and to be had of all the Booksellers in Great Britain, Price 1s.

† *Coronal Bone*, is the upper part of the skull.

fed

“ fed* ; all the articulations † of his shoulders,
 “ arms, and hands, were anchilosed ‡ ; the joint
 “ of the wrist, with the bone of the arm, were sur-
 “ rounded with a tumour of a most enormous size,
 “ and so pernicious in its effect, as to distort the
 “ wrist upwards in such a manner, that his fingers
 “ laid upon the fore-part of his arm : All the fingers
 “ of this hand were exostosed and contracted ; the
 “ whole arm was emaciated, and looked withered.
 “ The tibia, or shin-bone, was likewise exostosed
 “ in its whole length : two deep and malignant
 “ ulcers preyed upon the left leg, the bone of
 “ which was carious, or rotten : the superior part
 “ of the right shin-bone was exostosed ; the most
 “ severe and acute pains, all over his body, were felt
 “ night and day without ceasing ; a hectic fever, ac-
 “ companied with a cough and spitting of purulent
 “ corrupted matter ; no sleep, and a continual loath-
 “ ing of all food : his body became emaciated to
 “ the greatest degree, and reduced to the last state
 “ of weakness.

“ Mess. de la Faye and Morand, whose patient
 “ he was for two years, declared that they had
 “ used their utmost endeavours to cure the said

* *Exostosed*, signifies a swelling or protuberance of a bone, and sometimes out of its natural place, and often produces a mortification if not prevented in time.

† *Articulations*, signify the joints of the body.

‡ *Anchilosed*, signifies a contraction, stiffness, and immoveableness of the joints.

“ patient,

" patient, but could not succeed. Dr. de la Motte,
 " an eminent physician of the faculty of Paris, had
 " also attended him. These three gentlemen de-
 " clared and certified, That Mr. Keyser's medicine
 " had performed a most astonishing cure on his
 " patient, to whom he administered this admirable
 " remedy on the 1st of March 1760, and accom-
 " plished the cure in four months; which was at-
 " tested by Dr. de la Motte, Mess. de la Faye and
 " Morand, celebrated surgeons at Paris, in the
 " month of August 1761; at which time he still
 " continued to enjoy a most perfect state of health,
 " without having the least return of any of his for-
 " mer frightful symptoms."

The second case is described and the cure attest-
 ed by the famous Professor Le Cat, the first anatomi-
 st, and one of the most eminent surgeons in
 Europe. I shall give it in his own words, as they
 stand in a letter he was very lately * so obliging to
 write me on the subject of my medicine.

LETTER from Mr. LE CAT, Doctor of Physic,
 and Chief Surgeon of the Hôtel Dieu of Rouen,
 Professor and Demonstrator Royal of Anatomy
 and Surgery; of the Royal Academies of Paris,
 London, Madrid, and Lyons, and of that of

* This is the second letter from the learned Professor Le Cat
 to Mr. Keyser. His first letter, of a very extraordinary case,
 was published three years since; we may conclude from this se-
 cond, that Mr. Le Cat has not like Mr. Wathen changed his
 opinion of my remedy.

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Bologna;

Bologna; of the Imperial Academies of the Curious of Nature, and of St. Petersburg; Perpetual Secretary of the Academy of Rouen, &c.

To Mr. KEYSER, on occasion of an extraordinary
Cure performed by his Pills.

“ S I R, Rouen, 27th May 1765:

“ I need not tell you, that it was in consequence
“ of the well-authenticated testimonials of two
“ surgeons of the greatest reputation in Paris,
“ Mess. Morand and Guerin, who had themselves
“ been eye-witnesses to the success of your medicine
“ in the hospital founded by the Marshal Duke de
“ Biron, that I determined to make a trial of it
“ for the space of two years, at the end of which
“ time, being convinced by my own repeated experience
“ of its efficacy, I publicly adopted its use
“ in my practice. A friend of mine, Mr. Signard,
“ who is now become one of your’s, happening to
“ be at my house for some days, afflicted in a deplorable
“ manner with a disorder in which your
“ pills * are of particular use, I advised him by all
“ means to try them at his return to Paris, and at
“ the same time recommended him to advise with
“ you; the consequence of which was, that, by your
“ great care, and the help of your medicine, he

* The French term is *dragées*, i. e. medicinal sugar-plumbs, or comfits.

“ recovered

“ recovered perfectly a health, which every one
 “ that knew him believed irreparably lost. Mr.
 “ Petit, Physician to the Duke of Orleans, has, as
 “ well as myself, given you an authentic attestation
 “ of that truly noble cure, as indeed no person,
 “ who has a regard for truth, can refuse his testi-
 “ mony to facts, the publication of which has
 “ such evident tendency to the welfare of mankind
 “ in general. For some time after the above-men-
 “ tioned instance, tho’ I have constantly persisted
 “ in the use of your pills, Sir, I have not met with
 “ any cures worthy of being particularly noticed,
 “ till lately I have performed one in the course of
 “ my practice, which I think extremely well adap-
 “ ted, not only to recall the good opinion of some
 “ in favour of your medicine, who really thought
 “ it not at all superior, if even equal, to the com-
 “ mon method of mercurial frictions ; but also to
 “ silence those who, consulting their own interests,
 “ rather than the advantage of their fellow creatures,
 “ have decried your pills, merely because the use
 “ of them considerably lessened their profits; for it
 “ is beyond doubt, Sir, that the publication of
 “ our medicine gave a mortal blow to the pecuniary
 “ interests of surgery ; and I am afraid there are
 “ very few of its professors sufficiently friends
 “ to the community to sacrifice those without
 “ some regret. But to proceed to a relation of
 “ the case :

“ Mr. Le Ch — C — —, Captain in the regiment
 “ of D — —, had all the symptoms of a confirmed
 “ pox; and the gentlemen of the faculty, in one of
 “ our sea-ports in Normandy, were of opinion that
 “ he had nothing left, but to submit to be laid down
 “ in a salivation. Accordingly, about the latter
 “ end of June last year, after bleeding, purging,
 “ the use of proper baths, and all the necessary
 “ precautions to insure success usually premised in
 “ these cases, the proper frictions were administered
 “ in a pretty ample and frequent manner. These
 “ soon raised a very copious salivation, which conti-
 “ nued the usual space of time. At the 11th rubbing
 “ all the symptoms disappeared; at the 16th, (for
 “ the patient underwent that number) the disorder
 “ seemed entirely conquered, but the spitting still
 “ continued. Hereupon they gave him repeated
 “ purges, and in large doses, in order to carry off
 “ the redundant salivation, which at length they
 “ effected, and the gentleman thought himself well
 “ enough to go abroad; but, about the beginning
 “ of November, he was obliged to take to his
 “ house again, on the re-appearance of some of the
 “ former symptoms, and had already been several
 “ months under the hands of physicians and sur-
 “ geons, and he continued so to be, during the
 “ whole month of November, on account of the
 “ return of certain ulcers that occupied the roof of
 “ the mouth and the throat. The gentlemen who at-
 “ tended him, having in vain tried all their skill to
 “ remove

“ remove these ugly symptoms he applied to me at
 “ Rouen, in a most pitiable condition. I must
 “ confess that I could not help being startled at
 “ the havock these ulcers had made on the parts
 “ affected; the roof of his mouth was all bespread
 “ with them, and the integuments of the palate
 “ and throat were deeply corroded, as was also the
 “ pharynx. These ulcers were attended with a
 “ violent inflammation, that affected the whole
 “ eustachian tube, and from thence communi-
 “ cated itself to the organs of hearing, occa-
 “ sioning a deafness. On the right-side of the
 “ upper jaw, near the nose, was a hard scab, as
 “ large as the end of one’s finger, under which was
 “ an ulcer of the same size, which had eaten entire-
 “ ly thro’ the lip. But the most afflicting circum-
 “ stance of all was, that his body was reduced to
 “ a mere skeleton, which he could, but with the ut-
 “ most difficulty, drag about. In this situation, tho’ I
 “ heartily wished, Sir, by means of your medicine,
 “ to restore to life and health a brave servant of
 “ his Majesty thus cruelly afflicted; yet, on the
 “ other hand, I thought the cure so hazardous, not
 “ to say even rash, that I advised him to go to
 “ Paris for assistance; but he would not hear men-
 “ tion of it. Indeed, I believe, he thought he had
 “ not strength enough to support the length of the
 “ journey, without being carried in a very easy
 “ conveyance. But, independent of that circum-
 “ stance, he assured me, that he had such a confi-
 “ dence

“ dence in me, that he was absolutely resolved to
 “ continue at Rouen, and submit entirely to any
 “ method I should think proper to try with him.
 “ Unfortunately for us both, he had imbibed a
 “ strong prepossession against your pills, and he had
 “ still greater reason to be averse to the ordinary
 “ method by salivation, of which he had suffered
 “ all the horrors, without reaping the least advan-
 “ tage from it. For my own part, I had many
 “ years ago experienced, on sundry occasions, the
 “ very precarious success of the extinctive method,
 “ as it is called, so much in use formerly at Mont-
 “ pellier. Your method then, Sir, appeared to
 “ me the only one I could with any degree of
 “ certainty make use of with my patient, in the
 “ miserable state in which he then was; and this ve-
 “ ry opinion of its certainty and safety made me
 “ determine, notwithstanding his repugnance, to
 “ put him upon the pills immediately, and that,
 “ without either bleeding, purging, or the use of
 “ baths premised. Accordingly I began, by giving
 “ him one pill every morning and night, on the
 “ 21st of December 1764, and increased the dose
 “ very gradually, and at considerable intervals. He
 “ could get but very little sleep; at the end of a-
 “ bout a fortnight the deafness, which I have al-
 “ ready taken notice of, went off; this first good
 “ effect began to give me some glimmering of
 “ hope. About the 28th day of the cure, the pa-
 “ late appeared pierced quite thro’; the 36th day
 “ ny/

“ my patient began to sleep tolerably well, and re-
 “ covered his appetite. Two days after I found a
 “ separation of a considerable portion of the middle
 “ and anterior part of the bone of the palate. At this
 “ time he took only ten pills a day. This con-
 “ firmed me if possible, more than ever in my good
 “ opinion of your medicine. In a month after the
 “ cornet * on the left side of the nose came away
 “ entirely. He then took thirteen pills a-day, and
 “ no more, for I did not dare to increase the dose far-
 “ ther on account of his weakness. During this time
 “ the ulcers of the integuments of the palate, and
 “ those in the bottom of the throat, continued shift-
 “ ing their appearances, in such a manner as gave
 “ me great uneasiness, for as fast as they healed up
 “ on one side, they broke out on the other. In some
 “ of the intervals of these changes, the uvula and the
 “ whole pharynx were so corroded with ulcers, that
 “ the lower part of these organs seemed to hang to
 “ the upper only by slender threads †, as it were,
 “ insomuch that I was every day under apprehen-
 “ sions of a total separation. Happily indeed these

* *Cornet* is the French name for one of the spongy laminæ,
 or thin bones of the nose, so called by them from its crooked or
 horn-like figure.

† These slender red threads, were only blood vessels, which
 are known to be less liable to putrefaction than muscles, or even
 bones, as there has been instances where the muscles were entirely
 consumed, and the bones carious, yet the blood vessels remained
 entire. This seems to confirm the doctrine of some anatomists,
 with respect to the coats of arteries.

“ threads

“ threads appeared of a bright red colour, which I
 “ looked upon as a favourable prognostic. By
 “ this time three months were elapsed, his appetite
 “ however was now very good, he slept well, his
 “ countenance became healthy and promising, and
 “ his strength considerably repaired; hence I plainly
 “ saw that nothing was wanting to crown our en-
 “ deavours with success, but to give the medicine
 “ in stronger doses, which I now determined to do;
 “ and by that time I had increased the number of
 “ his pills to twenty-eight, and afterwards to thirty
 “ a-day, the ulcer began to heal with amazing
 “ promptitude, and the cure was attended with no
 “ accident worthy of remark, either in the head, the
 “ mouth, or the bowels; while the ulcers were heal-
 “ ing, a very strong tucking-in cicatrix was form-
 “ ed the whole length of the middle of the base
 “ of the uvula, which persuaded me that the palate-
 “ bone, which supported it, had been separated
 “ or exfoliated, and had come away without my
 “ perceiving it. In a word, after having taken the
 “ increased dose of thirty of your pills a-day for a
 “ week, this great cure was accomplished, after my
 “ patient had been four months and a half under
 “ the course of the remedy.

“ This, Sir, is the substance of the observations
 “ I thought necessary to communicate to you, as a
 “ justice I think myself indispensably obliged to
 “ render to your method of cure. You have my
 “ full

“ full permission to make it public : for, believe me,
 “ no consideration in life whatsoever shall hinder
 “ me from paying the tribute due to truth, espe-
 “ cially when it so nearly concerns the welfare of
 “ my fellow creatures ; a way of thinking and act-
 “ ing which I flatter myself will meet with the ap-
 “ probation of every person of honour and under-
 “ standing.

“ I am, &c.

(Signed) LE CAT.”

“ I certify that the above letter, of which this is
 “ a copy, was written by me ; and furthermore,
 “ that, during several years that I have now con-
 “ stantly made use of Mr. Keyser’s pills, I become
 “ daily more and more convinced, that they far
 “ excel every other medicine for obtaining a per-
 “ fect and radical cure of the venereal disease.

Rouen, June 7, 1765.

LE CAT.”

This last case, Sir, I think may be termed a
 very bad one ; and if Mr. Le Cat had thought that
 the common mercurial preparations would either
 have proved more easy for his patient to bear, or
 likely to succeed better in the event, there is the
 greatest reason to believe, from that gentleman’s
 known candour and humanity, that he would have

E

pre-

preferred them to mine ; but my chief reason for inserting these cases is to demonstrate to every reader how unjustly my reputation might have probably fallen a sacrifice to the ungenerous representations of an anonymous antagonist, had I not been thus strengthened by the assent and opinion of persons whomay justly be ranked amongst the brightest luminaries of their profession.

Daily experience indeed teaches us that the generality of mankind are too ready to receive unfavourable impressions on the least plausibilities: but under these disadvantages, and the additional one of being a foreigner and a stranger in your country, as well as the interruption of a general correspondence with France, caused by the late war, having hindered my medicine being hitherto known in England, but to a few, most of whom did not think it their interest to encourage the importation of a discovery, which, however useful it would prove to the public, might diminish their profit in this class of disorders; notwithstanding all these disadvantages, I say, yet do I flatter myself, that what I have asserted concerning the superiority of my medicine over all other antivenereals, will be well received by the generous and unprejudiced part of the English, a people who are no less remarkable for their discernment, than admired for their candour.

And

And now, Sir, having, as I think, answered in every part the invidious suggestions and groundless reflections thrown out against my medicine by the anonymous writer of the *Parallele*, &c. whose sentiments you have thought proper to adopt in your pamphlet, I shall here close this long letter, with declaring, that I rest the merits of my cause with the candid and discerning public, doubting not that they will do me that justice which appears to be my due. In the mean time, I remain,

S I R,

Your humble servant, &c.

Paris, Oct. 1, 1765.

J. KEYSER.

F I N I S.

1873
Feb 10
The undersigned
do hereby certify
that the within
copy is a true
and correct copy
of the original
as the same
appears in the
records of the
County of
Harris, Texas.

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John C. ...

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